

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Government Recognizes Canning as Agricultural Industry

Recognition of the agricultural character of the canning industry is given in the promulgation by the Secretary of Agriculture of regulations under the United States Warehouse Act for the storage of canned foods. Under these regulations, which are effective immediately, canned foods are defined to mean "fruits and vegetables sterilized by heat and packed in hermetically sealed containers".

In its announcement of the promulgation of the regulations the Department of Agriculture states:

"The placing of canned foods on the eligible list for storage by warehousemen licensed by the Secretary of Agriculture is in answer to demands from canners, growers, and growers and canners associations in various states.

"The pea canners and growers of Wisconsin requested such action almost two years ago. Canners and various growers associations in California and Oregon made similar requests a year ago. Last winter the Tri-State Canners Association which is composed of canners in Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland at its annual meeting petitioned the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules to store their products under the federal law. The National Canners Association at its annual meeting in January made a similar recommendation. Some time ago growers of various fruits in New York, Michigan, Washington and Wisconsin expressed a desire to have canned fruits made storable under the law.

"In making these requests to the Department it has been repeatedly represented that the federally licensed warehouse receipt will make it possible to finance not only more generally

but to greater advantage. Proper financing it is felt will relieve growers associations and canners whose present financing ability is somewhat limited from being forced to dump their packs on the market at a time when the market is already loaded.

"The regulations are so worded as to improve warehousing and canning methods and to safe-guard the interests of persons accepting the warehouse receipts as collateral for loan purposes. Under the regulations it will be necessary for many canners to improve their pack and establish more definite standards and grades and live up to them:

"Careless and indifferent methods and lack of observation of grades will not be tolerated. All products must be inspected by federally licensed graders before they enter storage and if they do not meet the regulations the warehouseman is prohibited from accepting them. The regulations are not arbitrary but an honest attempt is made to improve conditions and to help place the canning industry on a sound basis."

#### Census Bureau Queries Canners on Plan to Collect Annual Statistics

The U. S. Census Bureau has had under consideration for some time requests for the compilation of annual statistics on the pack of canned fruits and vegetables, and late in July addressed an inquiry on the subject to a number of canners and officials of canners' associations.

It is the policy of the Census Bureau, before undertaking new work of this character, to consult the industry concerned, and its letter of inquiry was designed to develop the opinion of the canners on (1) the degree to which the industry will cooperate, and (2) the tentative plan worked out by the Bureau for collecting the figures.

If it develops from the letter of inquiry that the canners want the statistics collected annually and will cooperate to the necessary extent, the Bureau will be able to go ahead with its plans. Otherwise, the work will not be undertaken.

With its letter the Bureau sent out a copy of the tentative schedule it has prepared for use by canners in making reports on their packs, and the Bureau asked for the canners' opinion on the availability and the value of the data called for in this schedule. Criticisms and suggestions were invited.

Inquiries to the Association from canners who have received the Bureau's letter, or who have learned about it, indicate

that the exact purpose of this preliminary survey is not clearly understood. The Bureau's present request is not for the statistics themselves but for the canners' opinion on the feasibility and advisability of the Bureau's undertaking to collect these figures according to the plans outlined in its inquiry. Canners who have received the Bureau's letter should therefore feel free to record their opinion and make such suggestions as appear to them appropriate.

In making these suggestions it should be borne in mind, as suggested by the Bureau, that to expedite the collection and publication of the statistics and to enable the Bureau to keep the cost of the work down to the amount likely to be available, the numbers of items in the schedule must be limited and the schedule itself made as brief as possible.

#### Farm Bureau Federation Asks Tomato Tariff Investigation

The American Farm Bureau Federation has filed with the United States Tariff Commission a request that an investigation be conducted by the Commission to determine whether or not any increase in the present tariff rate on canned tomatoes imported into the United States is justified.

The petition points out that the growers of tomatoes will ultimately bear the brunt of loss resulting from increasing competition in canned tomatoes as the depression in values is passed back from the wholesaler to packer and from the packer to the grower. The petition further states that through the various state farm bureaus in the principal tomato growing states the Farm Bureau Federation has arranged to secure detailed statistics in regard to production costs in this country, which will later be furnished to the Tariff Commission.

#### Should "Abstracts" be Punched for Filing?

The Association has received the suggestion that "Abstracts of Canning Technology" be punched in the same manner as the weekly "Information Letter" so that they can be placed in ring binders. At present the "Abstracts" are published with a cover of rather stiff paper so that they can be placed on shelves as separate pamphlets. If the copies were to be punched it would probably be desirable to omit the cover.

The Association wants to meet the wishes of its members and would be pleased to have their views as to whether the present form should be continued or the suggested change made.

### **Australia Proposes Law Establishing Canned Fruits Export Control Board**

A report received by the U. S. Department of Commerce states that a bill has been passed by the Australian House of Representatives regulating and controlling the exports of canned fruits. A Canned Fruits Control Board is established under the bill similar to and with powers like the Dried Fruits Control Board and the Dairy Produce Control Board, which were organized under the respective Acts of 1924. At present only apricots, clingstone peaches, and pears are included in the bill but others may be added later, it is said. The bill must pass the Australian Senate before becoming a law.

### **Customs Decision on Salt Duty**

In a decision over-ruling the protests of various canning companies in Maine against the action of customs authorities in levying duty on salt used in curing fish on the shores of navigable waters of the United States, Judge Waite of the U. S. Customs Court at New York has held that free entry should not be allowed to salt used in this manner unless it is clearly shown that it was used for curing fish of American fisheries.

The Collector of Customs at Portland, Maine, in explaining his reasons for assessing the duty, stated: "The fish were not taken by American vessels licensed to engage in the fisheries but were in chief part taken by Canadian vessels in Canadian waters and were purchased abroad and imported by the fish curers."

### **Car Loadings Reach New High Level**

Revenue freight loadings for the week ended July 31 totaled 1,102,590 cars, the highest figures for any week thus far this year. This figure was an increase of 17,140 cars over the preceding week and an increase of 56,964 cars over the corresponding week in 1925.

### **Retail Grocers' Clerks to Receive Special Training**

According to a report just issued by the Federal Board for Vocational Education, that Board and the National Association of Retail Grocers are planning to organize a system to provide special training for retail grocers' salesmen and managers.

This plan may afford the canning industry a splendid opportunity to educate grocers' salesmen on methods of preparation and the wholesomeness of canned foods.